

Please check against delivery

SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD COMMITTEE
Introductory Statement
by
Ms. Rachel Mayanja
Assistant Secretary-General
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women
12 October 2009

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues and friends

evident that despite years of commitment and investment, progress in improving global health had been mixed.

Mr. Chairperson,

Women and girls' health continues to face a number of threats that should have

been attenuated or even eliminated in the last century. According to UNFPA, every minute, a woman dies of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth from mostly

war. In recent years, the Security Council has focused significant attention on combating this scourge. In addition to the landmark resolution 1325(2000) on women and peace and security, the Council has over the past year adopted three other resolutions –1820 (2008) in July 2009, 1888 (2009) in September 2009 and 1889 (2009) in October 2009. With these new resolutions, the Security Council signaled its resolve to intensify actions to ensure that violence against women during armed conflict is eliminated.

Despite these and numerous specific efforts by Member States, the United

largely unmeasured and its contribution to economic and social development

adequately recognized and valued in economic terms. The dimensions of economic and social development

commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women is weak and inadequate to support Member States.

The United Nations system is therefore at the cusp of major change in how it addresses gender equality and women's empowerment around the world. The adoption of resolution A/RES/63/311 is an indication of the willingness and readiness of Member States to be agents of change to ensure the needed paradigm shift.

The Secretary-General has been solidly behind a strengthened system that would enable a better support of Member States in fulfillment of their commitments to women.

He has emphasized that he will move expeditiously to respond to the resolution in order to bring the new gender entity into being as soon as possible.

Resolution A/RES/63/311 has been heralded by many around the globe and expectations are high, and justifiably so. Many women around the world continue to be excluded from the full benefits of social and economic development and many experience gender-based violence and other forms of abuse of their human rights.

Mr. Chairperson,

We look forward to your unwavering support as we work to prepare the proposals for the design of a new composite entity that would be better resourced, have stronger field presence and a greater capacity to serve the Member States and all the women of the world. We look to you for a swift decision. The achievement of this on the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, would indeed be a fulfilling achievement and a reaffirmation that the ideals for which women's organizations, Member States, the United Nations system and the international

